

Fighting for Brain Health

The Professional Fighters
Clinical Research Study



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Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas, Nevada, is recruiting professional fighters for a study that will help determine whether magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain, along with other tests, can detect subtle changes in brain health. Researchers hope to identify if and when changes occur that may result in impaired thinking and function. Together we can improve brain health awareness within the fighting community.



The Study

The first visit will last about two hours.

Volunteers will:

1. Answer basic questions about their background, personal and family medical history, and sports experience.
2. Undergo a noninvasive and painless MRI scan of the brain and a neurological examination.
3. Participate in brief computer and verbal tests to measure memory and other aspects of mental functioning.

Any changes seen on the participant's MRI will be correlated with performance on cognitive assessments and neurologic exams. This information may help us find ways to identify those who are at risk for brain injury.

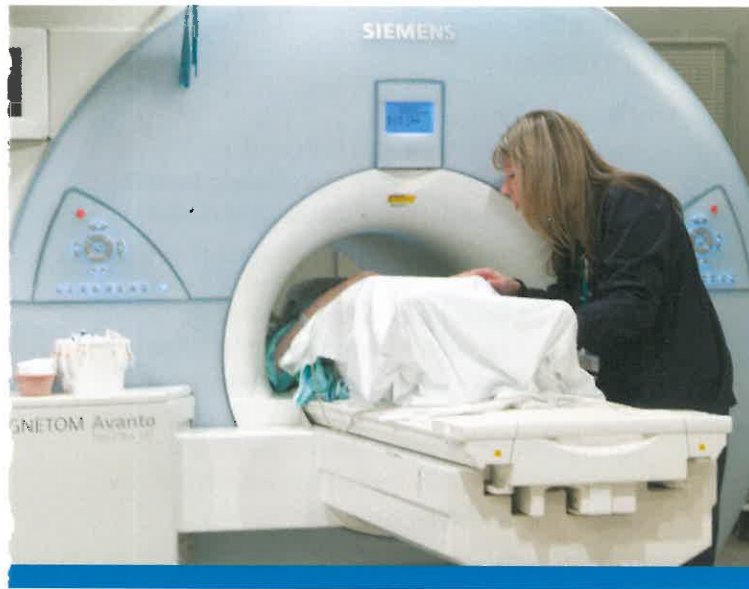
Terms

Participants will be asked to repeat the study once a year for four years so that any changes to their brains can be noted and monitored. There is no cost for participation.

No direct compensation will be offered for participation in the study. Participants may submit their MRI reports to the Nevada Athletic Commission as part of their application for licensure in Nevada.

Participants must be:

1. Age 18 or older.
2. Licensed or seeking licensure in the state of Nevada for professional fighting (unarmed combat), including boxing, mixed martial arts and muay thai.
3. Able to read and speak English.



Confidentiality

Any abnormal findings will be discussed privately with the study participant. No information will be released to any other person, agency or to the Nevada Athletic Commission without the participant's written permission.

If a finding represents a health risk, we will discuss whether the participant would like us to forward the information to his or her personal physician. If we believe the finding puts the athlete at risk for continued participation in the sport, we will inform the participant and it will be his or her responsibility to notify the licensing agency.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I participate?

The sports community is aware that recurrent blows to the head can result in brain injury causing dementia or Parkinson's disease. Many notable athletes have developed these problems, along with depression and other neurological findings, at relatively young ages. Given the advances made in studying the brain, such as MRI scanning, we may have the ability to determine who is at greatest risk to develop permanent brain injury and detect it at its earliest stages. Your participation in the study will help us answer these important questions and hopefully lead to improved safety in your sport and the field of traumatic brain injuries.

Which tests will I undergo?

1) You will be asked basic questions about your background—age, education, occupation, previous sports experience, medical and family history (you are not obligated to answer any questions you do not know or are uncomfortable with) 2) You will have an MRI scan of the brain (a radiologic image of the brain) 3) You will have a neurological examination 4) You will take several brief tests on the computer to measure memory and other aspects of mental function 5) You will be asked to read a paragraph that will be recorded. The entire study visit will last approximately two hours.

How often should I be tested?

You will undergo a study visit once a year. The most important information that will be gained from this study will come from evaluating individuals over several years to see if and how brain changes occur. Though you are able to drop out of the study at any time, we encourage participants to continue the yearly visits as long as possible.

Who will have access to my information?

Only the study team will have access to information obtained in the study—all findings are strictly confidential and will not be released to any other person or agency without your written permission.

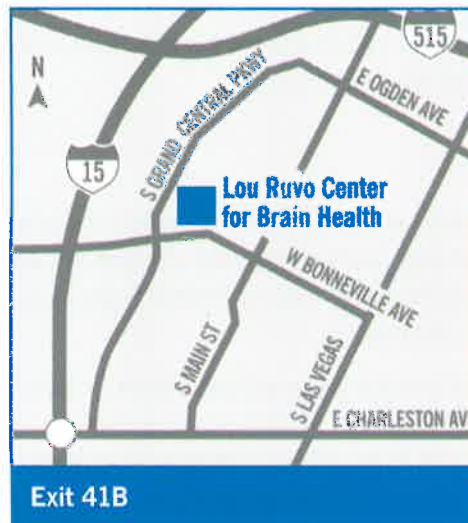
About Us

Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Clinic is a nonprofit, multispecialty academic medical center, consistently ranked among the top hospitals in America by *U.S. News & World Report*. Founded in 1921, it is dedicated to providing quality specialized care and includes an outpatient clinic, a hospital with more than 1,300 staffed beds, an education institute and a research institute.

Contact Us

For more information or to participate, contact Michelle B. Sholar at 702.483.6026 or email BrainHealth@ccf.org.



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